

Genealogical Records at the New Jersey State Archives

Vital Records:

New Jersey Vital Records (May 1, 1848–December 31, 1912)

- State Archives owns these records and will conduct mail research on them
- All marriages from 1848-1878 are now indexed online: [Marriage Index, 1848-1878](#)
- Vital Records from May 1848 to May 1878 are recorded in large ledger books. NO certificates. We estimate them to be about 60% complete.
- Certificates start June 1, 1878
- Deaths from June 1878 – June 1890 have been indexed online: [Death Records, 1878-1890](#). More years will be added as they are completed.
- Birth Corrections (1848 – 1900) are filed to correct an error on the original filed record. Records from 1901-1912 need to be reviewed.
- Delayed Birth Certificates (1848 – 1900) are filed many years after the birth when an individual discovers no record was filed when the birth took place. Records from 1901-1912 need to be reviewed.

New Jersey Vital Records (post-December 31, 1912)

- Owned by New Jersey Department of Health
- State Archives has microfilm copies of the Department of Health records for the public to come and search themselves. Specifically:
 - Births: January 1, 1913–December 31, 1923
 - Marriages: January 1, 1913–December 31, 1940
 - Deaths: January 1, 1913–December 31, 1955

Pre-1848 Birth Records

- Not filed at any governmental level except Records of Births of Slave Children that were filed with each county clerk beginning in 1804.

Pre-1848 Marriage Records

- Required to be filed with the county clerk starting in 1795 (or the year the county was formed). Filing continued in theory to 1878.
- Marriage officiant submitted list of marriages to county clerk to be recorded into volumes. Information primarily consisted of names of parties being married, officiant, and date of marriage.
- Most of the county clerk marriages have been published. Also available in digital form on www.familysearch.org
- State Archives owns and provides mail reference for the original books or returns kept by the clerks of Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Essex, Mercer, Somerset, Sussex and Union counties.

Colonial Marriage Bonds (1711-1795)

- Bonds were entered into for only a minority of colonial marriages. They approximate dates of marriage. These were records filed with the Secretary of State's Office and have been indexed online: [Colonial Marriages, 1665-1799](#). The database also includes a few very early (1600s) marriages recorded in early deed books.
- Abstracted in William Nelson's *New Jersey Marriage Records, 1665-1800*

Divorces (1743-1880s)

- A number of divorces were granted by acts of the legislature during 1778-1844.
- Chancery Court also granted divorces. State Archives owns original Chancery Court cases from 1743 to 1880s. Indexes available in Manuscript and Microfilm Room. Cases up to 1902 can be retrieved from off-site storage.

Census Records:

Federal Censuses (1830-1940)

- State Archives has on microfilm federal census schedules for New Jersey from 1830-1930
- Book indexes for 1830 – 1870
- On-line indexes for 1840 – 1940 [www.heritagequestonline.com, www.ancestry.com and familysearch.com]

State Censuses (1855-1915)

- Taken every 10 years on years that ended with a 5 [1855, 1865, and 1875 are incomplete]
- Not indexed except for Hunterdon County in 1875 and Monmouth County in 1875 [available online at [Monmouth County Archives website](#)] and Atlantic, part of Camden, and part of Passaic Counties in 1885, which can be found online: [1885 Census](#).
- Online index for 1895 can be found at www.ancestry.com
- Online indexes for 1885 and 1905 can be found at www.familysearch.com
- The Archives does not provide mail reference for the state censuses except for those on our website

Tax Ratables:

Duplicate Tax Ratables (1768-1822)

- Duplicate tax records filed with the New Jersey Legislature
- Not complete
- Most, but not all, ratables are indexed in *New Jersey Tax Lists, 1772-1822*. Most of Burlington and parts of Middlesex counties are missing. Bergen and Hunterdon ratables have been indexed separately
- The Archives does not provide mail reference for this collection
- Some ratable abstracts have been published in the *Genealogical Society Magazine of New Jersey*. The Revolutionary War period abstracts are included in K. Stryker Rodda's *Revolutionary War Census of New Jersey*.

Land Records:

West Jersey Proprietors (1685-present)

- State Archives has surveys, minutes, and other records on microfilm (1685-1951)
- Records deposited at the State Archives in 2005
- We do not search these records through the mail, but will copy specific transactions with a complete citation.

East Jersey Proprietors (1685-1998)

- Sold remaining property rights to the State of New Jersey in 1998
- Records deposited at the State Archives at that time
- We do not search these records through the mail, but will copy specific transactions with a complete citation.

Secretary of State Deed Collection (c.1650-1856)

- Grantors and grantees are indexed in "Colonial Conveyances" (2 bound volumes).
- Includes original East and West Jersey deed volumes transferred to the Provincial Secretary's Office in the 1740s

Supreme Court Lost Deeds (1782-1838 with a few deeds before 1782)

- After the Revolutionary War, the court allowed for registration of land titles if original document was destroyed.

Original Deeds (1677-1947)

- A small collection of donations of original land documents. These generally include original signatures as compared to recorded deeds, where the signatures are copied.

County Loan Offices Mortgage Records (1724-1799)

- State Archives has original county loan office records for Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, and Somerset Counties
- Indexed in card file in Manuscript Search Room and in collection guides

County Court of Common Pleas Partitions and Surrogate's Office Divisions of Estates (1780s-1900s)

- State Archives has original county partitions and copies still held by county clerks on microfilm
- State Archives has microfilm copies of divisions of estates

Supreme Court Divisions of Estates (1714-1900)**Deeds (1660s-1900)**

- State Archives has microfilm copies of all county deeds up to 1900 (original records still owned by each county)
- Most deeds date from about 1785; a few counties have deeds recorded before that date
- All deeds have indexes on microfilm, many indexes continue past 1900

Mortgages (1766-1850)

- State Archives has microfilm copies of all county mortgages up to 1850

Estate Records:**Original Wills and Estate Inventories (1670-1952)**

- State Archives holds all original wills and inventories for the colony/state of New Jersey from 1670-1900
- From 1901-1952 the records are on microfilm only and usually do not contain inventories

County Surrogate Offices (c.1785-1900)

- State Archives has microfilm copies of most county surrogate offices' records up to 1900. Morris County's records were not microfilmed.

Prerogative Court (1830s-1948)

- State Archives holds original Prerogative Court cases to 1948
- Prerogative Court had jurisdiction over cases from county orphan's courts and estates where the property was in two counties

Military Records:**Colonial Wars (1639-c.1775)**

- Transcripts and original manuscripts [Manuscript #243]

Revolutionary War (1776-1783)

- *Register of Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War*
- Compiled service cards
- Abstracts of service [slips]
- Numbered manuscripts
- Loyalist muster rolls and transcribed records
- [Inventories of damages by British and American soldiers \(1776-1782\)](#)

War of 1812 (1812-1814)

- *Records of Officers and Men of New Jersey in Wars 1791-1815*
- Pensions (1874-1900)

Civil War (1861-1865)

- [*Roster of Officers and Men in the Civil War*](#)
- Regimental records
- [Payment vouchers \(State Treasurer's Office\)](#)
- [Photographs \(cartes-de-visites\)](#)

Punitive Expedition to Mexico, 1916

- Muster Rolls

World War I (1917-1918)

- Unofficial service cards
- [Information Cards and Photographs of New Jersey Men who died in Service](#)

Court Records:

Supreme Court Case Files (1704-1844)

- Supreme Court heard all types of cases.
- Indexed by plaintiff and defendant
- Index available on our web site: www.archives.nj.gov

Chancery Court (1740s-1886)

- State Archives owns the original Chancery Court cases to 1886 and has access to cases off-site up to 1902
- Chancery Court was charged with hearing cases of equity (concern for fairness and judgment in the disposition and inheritance of property)
- Indexed by complainant (index by complainant and defendant is being created)

County Records:

Original County Records

- Varies by county. Includesj of the peace dockets, naturalizations, tavern licenses, and marriage records.
- Original county court of common pleas naturalizations for the following counties: Burlington (1790-1956), Camden (1844-1932), Essex (1792-1934), Mercer (1838-1940), Ocean (1850-1966), Sussex (1817-1948) and Union counties (1857-1931)

Miscellaneous Collections:

Inquisitions on the Dead (1688-1798)

- Name index.

Newspapers (1776 – 1900s)

- Over 8,000 reels of newspapers from different areas of New Jersey

Name-Change Judgments (1876-1947)

- Duplicate filings of legal name changes granted by county courts
- Name index by new name and by original name

The New Jersey State Archives is open Monday through Friday.

(Excluding State holidays)

Manuscript Hours: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Microfilm Hours: 8:30 am to 4:15 pm

Visit our website, www.archives.nj.gov, for more information.

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